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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

/096 W
---------- 114267
R 070105Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6356
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 16020

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UK, EEC
SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT WILSON SHIFT ON MARKET ISSUE

1. TODAY'S GUARDIAN CARRIES A VERY PERCEPTIVE ARTICLE BY PETER JENKINS. ENTITLED "WILSON OFF THE FENCE," IT STATES THAT "WILSON FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS ALLOWED THE WORD TO SPREAD AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES THAT IT IS HIS WISH AND INTENTION TO SEE BRITAIN REMAINING A MEMBER OF A REFORMED EUROPEAN COMMUNITY." CITING THE MINUTES OF WILSON'S WEEKEND TALKS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, JENKINS NOTES
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THAT SCHMIDT POPPED THE QUESTION: "IF THE BRITISH WERE

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TO GET THEIR NEGOTIATED TERMS, WOULD MR. WILSON HIMSELF CAMPAIGN FOR THEIR ACCEPTANCE AT HOME?" IN THE VERSION OF THE MINUTES "EDITED AND CIRCULATED" BY WILSON HIMSELF, SAYS JENKINS, "ANSWER CAME THERE NONE". NEVERTHELESS, JENKINS GOES ON, "IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION THIS WEEK WILSON REVEALED HIS INTENTIONS".

2. JENKINS THEN INVOKES WILSON'S TALKS WITH GISCARD DECEMBER 3 AS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT HE IS "SIDLING FROM THE FENCE ON WHICH ... HE HAS BEEN INSCRUTABLY SITTING ALL YEAR". THIS SUDDEN TRIP TO PARIS, HE ARGUES, "WAS THE FIRST RISK THAT MR. WILSON HAS TAKEN IN HIS EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY SINCE HIS RETURN TO DOWNING STREET, AND WE ARE ENTITLED TO ASSUME THEREFORE THAT IT WAS A CALCULATED ONE".

3. IN AN EDITORIAL ON THE FORTHCOMING EC SUMMIT, TODAY'S FINANCIAL TIMES OBSERVES THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAN PROBABLY GET WHAT IT WANTS ON RENEGOTIATION, BUT "NOT WITHOUT A PROMISE FROM MR. WILSON THAT HE WILL THEN RECOMMEND CONTINUED BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. IT IS BEGINNING TO BE TIME FOR THE PROMISE TO BE MADE SO THE COMMUNITY CAN BE QUICKLY RID OF THIS TIRESOME SIDESHOW".

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